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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
)  
Trieu et al. ) Before the Examiner  
) Eduardo C. Robert  
)  
Serial No. 10/083,199 )  
) Group Art Unit 3732  
)  
Filed February 26, 2002 )  
) Atty Docket No. 4002-2950/PC464.00  
)  
FLEXIBLE SYSTEMS FOR SPINAL )  
STABILIZATION AND FIXATION ) March 14, 2005

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

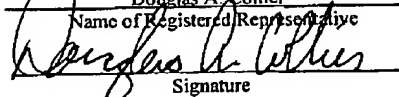
Sir:

In response to the non-Final First Office Action mailed December 13, 2004, in the above application, please consider and enter the following. No fees or extensions of time are believed due for consideration of the enclosed; however, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any fees which may be due to deposit account 12-2424, but not including the payment of issue fees.

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Response to First Office Action  
Ser. No. 10/083,199  
Atty Docket No. 4002-2950/PC464.00  
Page 1 of 14

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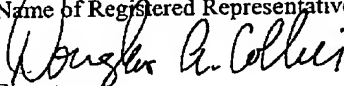
FROM: Douglas A. Collier

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RE: Office Action Response for 10/083,199, Attorney Docket: 4002-2950/PC464.00

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KRIEG DEVAULT LLP  
ONE INDIANA SQUARE  
SUITE 2800  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204  
TELEPHONE-(317) 636-4341  
FAX-(317) 636-1507

KRIEG DEVAULT LLP  
12800 N MERIDIAN STREET  
SUITE 300  
CARMEL, IN 46032  
TELEPHONE-(317) 566-1110  
FAX-(317) 636-1507

KRIEG DEVAULT GALVIN  
LLP  
5231 HOHMAN STREET  
HAMMOND, IN 46320  
TELEPHONE-(219) 933-0380  
FAX-(219) 933-0471

KRIEG DEVAULT LUNDY  
LLP  
825 ANTHONY WAYNE  
BUILDING  
203 EAST BERRY STREET  
FT. WAYNE, IN 46802  
TELEPHONE-(260) 422-1534  
FAX-(260) 423-1590

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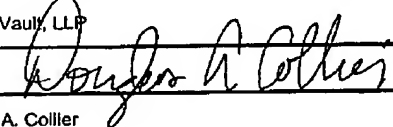
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/083,199
	Filing Date	February 28, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Trieu et al.
	Art Unit	3732
	Examiner Name	Eduardo C. Robert
	Attorney Docket Number	4002-2950/PC464.00
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		15

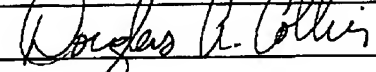
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## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Krieg DeVault, LLP		
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Date	March 14, 2005	Reg. No.	43,556

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